

36811 to 36813—Continued.

as this species is pretty generally distributed throughout the tropical world. The shrub is called *tattas* by the natives. The governor is not sure whether it will endure any degree of frost, but thinks it may. The seedling plants form a rather deep taproot and must be transplanted with some care on that account. This is one of the most perfect tropical hedge plants I have ever seen."

36814. ARTEMISIA MARITIMA L.**Wormseed.**

From Russia. Presented by Mr. John H. Grout, American consul at Odessa. Received November 29, 1913.

"In only one part of the country (Tashkend) was I able to secure the seed, and there it was in the hands of one firm. This firm has a small plantation a long distance away, where the seed is raised in small quantities.

"Russian pharmacists obtain their supplies of the flower buds from central Asia, where on some of the dry hillsides the plants grow in great profusion and without any sort of cultivation. There it is richest in the volatile oil and in santonin, for which it is valued. The same variety of plant is also found in parts of Persia and Asia Minor and, I believe, also in places in Hungary. It seems to thrive best in semiarid climates with a superabundance of sunshine and a certain brackishness of soil. It would doubtless grow well in some parts of the southwestern portion of the United States on calcareous loess and on the outskirts of salt marshes. Whether a plant which grows wild in other places and only needs to be collected could be grown with great profit in the United States may be open to doubt." (*Grout, extracts from letters dated April 14 and November 8, 1913.*)

"*Artemisia maritima* L., is a very variable species, and two varieties which are known as *A. cina* Berg and Schmidt, and *A. pauciflora* Weber are usually regarded as the source of the so-called Levant wormseed, or santonica, of the Pharmacopoeia. The commercial supply of santonica comes largely from Turkestan, but the harvests of three successive years, 1909 to 1911, proving a failure, considerable interest has been aroused in the possibility of producing this drug in other countries." (*W. W. Stockberger.*)

36815 to 36817.

From American Samoa. Presented by Commander C. D. Stearns, Governor of Samoa. Received December 10, 1913.

36815. MANGIFERA INDICA L.**Mango.**

"Mango seeds taken from fruits grown in these islands." (*Stearns.*)

36816. DIOSCOREA sp.

Tuber.

36817. PERSEA AMERICANA Miller.**Avocado.**

(*Persea gratissima* Gaertn. f.)

"Seeds taken from fruits grown in these islands." (*Stearns.*)

36818 to 36828. PHOENIX DACTYLIFERA L.**Date.**

From Dongola, Sudan, Africa. Offshoots collected by Prof. S. C. Mason, of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Received December 17, 1913.

Quoted notes by Prof. Mason.

"It is generally acknowledged that the four date varieties of importance in this Province were originally brought up the river from the Sukkot district, a very inaccessible region between the second and third cataracts of the Nile, now included, for administrative purposes, in Halfa Province, with the capital at Wadi Halfa. John Lewis Burkhardt, in his account of his travels in Nubia in 1813, mentions the excel-